



**Washington State
Department of Transportation**



City of
OLYMPIA

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Indian Creek Facility Receives Environmental Recognition

OLYMPIA – Noting the unique partnership that resulted in the development of the Indian Creek Stormwater Treatment Facility in Olympia, Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) officials today recognized the project with the Judge's Honorable Mention in Cultural Resources for the 2003 Environmental Excellence Awards.

The two-acre facility, located on the corner of Wheeler Avenue and Frederick Street adjacent to Interstate 5, brought together the City of Olympia, City Arts Commission, Nisqually Tribe, Squaxin Tribe, and the Washington State Department of Transportation.

"The City Council has been very pleased to support such an innovative and environmentally beneficial project. This partnership has provided our community with improved water quality in Indian Creek as well as an aesthetic and educational amenity for the neighborhood and area residents to visit and enjoy," notes Mark Foutch, Olympia Mayor Pro Tem.

The primary goal of the facility was to clean stormwater runoff from Interstate 5 and stabilize slopes, but the project goes a step further by incorporating public art, walking trails, and many landscape plants that are edible, or have medicinal or basket weaving uses in traditional Native American cultures.

"The partnership with the Tribes, City and Arts Commission is a great example of how we want to do things at WSDOT," said Secretary of Transportation Doug MacDonald. "We fixed an old stormwater problem in a way that benefits communities and the environment. We all win in this kind of scenario."

Prior to construction of the Indian Creek Stormwater Treatment Facility, untreated stormwater from Interstate 5 flowed into a natural tributary on this site, degrading both the tributary and Indian Creek. The stormwater site is designed with a series of holding ponds and constructed wetlands, plants, rocks and weirs to slow the water as it travels through the facility. The goal is to reduce contaminants by 50 percent before the water enters Indian Creek.

The Federal Highway Administration gives the Environmental Excellence Award every two years to honor partners, projects and processes that excel in meeting growing transportation demands while protecting and enhancing the natural and human environment. For more information, see the FHWA's web site at <http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/eea.htm>.

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